



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

***Raised Bill No. 5572***

LCO No. 1985

\*01985\_\_\_\_\_KID\*

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:  
(KID)

***AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD POVERTY.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2004*) (a) The Secretary of the  
2       Office of Policy and Management, the president pro tempore of the  
3       Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives, after  
4       consultation with the Commissioners of Children and Families, Social  
5       Services, Corrections, Transportation, Public Health, Education,  
6       Economic and Community Development and Health Care Access, the  
7       Labor Commissioner, the Chairman of the Board of Governors for  
8       Higher Education and the Child Advocate, shall jointly develop a ten-  
9       year plan to reduce the number of children living in poverty in the  
10      state by fifty per cent.

11      (b) The plan shall contain: (1) An identification and analysis of the  
12      root causes of child poverty in the state, (2) an analysis of the long-  
13      term effects of child poverty on children, their families and their  
14      communities, (3) an analysis of costs of child poverty to municipalities  
15      and the state, (4) an inventory of state-wide public and private  
16      programs that address each of the root causes identified pursuant to  
17      subdivision (1) of this subsection, (5) the percentage of the target

18 population served by such programs and the current state funding  
19 levels, if any, for such programs, (6) an identification and analysis of  
20 any deficiencies or inefficiencies of such programs in addressing such  
21 root causes of child poverty, and (7) procedures and priorities for  
22 implementing strategies to achieve a fifty per cent reduction in child  
23 poverty in the state by June 30, 2014. Such procedures and priorities  
24 shall include, but not be limited to, (A) vocational training for parents  
25 of children living in poverty, (B) educational opportunities and  
26 advancement for such parents and children, (C) housing for such  
27 parents and children, (D) day-care and after-school programs and  
28 mentoring programs for such children, (E) health care access for such  
29 parents and children, and (F) direct and early intervention programs,  
30 including substance abuse treatment programs and services, for such  
31 parents and children.

32 (c) In developing the plan, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
33 Management, the president pro tempore of the Senate and the speaker  
34 of the House of Representatives may consult with experts and  
35 providers of services to children living in poverty. The secretary,  
36 president pro tempore and speaker of the House of Representatives  
37 shall jointly hold a public hearing on the plan. After the public hearing,  
38 the secretary, president pro tempore of the Senate and speaker of the  
39 House of Representatives may make any modifications that the  
40 secretary deems necessary based on testimony given at the public  
41 hearing.

42 (d) Not later than February 1, 2005, the Secretary of the Office of  
43 Policy and Management, the president pro tempore of the Senate and  
44 the speaker of the House of Representatives shall jointly submit the  
45 plan, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the  
46 General Assembly, along with any recommendations for legislation  
47 and funding necessary to implement the plan. The General Assembly  
48 shall vote on the plan not later than April 1, 2005. (1) If the General  
49 Assembly approves the plan, it shall be implemented. (2) If the General  
50 Assembly disapproves the plan, in whole or in part, the plan shall be

51 deemed to be rejected and shall be returned to the secretary with  
52 recommendations for revisions. The secretary, the president pro  
53 tempore of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives  
54 shall jointly make the recommended revisions to the plan and submit  
55 the revised plan to the General Assembly not later than May 15, 2005.  
56 Such revised plan shall be deemed approved after submission to the  
57 General Assembly and shall be implemented.

58 (e) On or before February 15, 2006, and annually thereafter, the  
59 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall report, in  
60 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint  
61 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
62 matters relating to appropriations on the implementation of the plan  
63 and the extent to which state actions are in conformity with the plan.

64 (f) Not later than February 15, 2006, and February 15, 2008, the  
65 Governor shall submit budget adjustments for the second year of the  
66 biennium needed for purposes of the plan.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>

***Statement of Purpose:***

To reduce childhood poverty in the state by fifty per cent within ten years.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*